

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

By Bernadette Michalski¹

The downturn in international petroleum prices during 1998 adversely affected the United Arab Emirates² (UAE) because revenues associated with the production of crude petroleum and natural gas accounted for a significant proportion of the national economy. Abu Dhabi dominated the UAE's hydrocarbon industry, accounting for nearly 90% of the country's crude oil production and 70% of natural gas production (Arab Petroleum Research Center, 1999, p. 464). Other minerals and mineral commodities produced in the UAE included aluminum and steel from Dubai, ammonia from Abu Dhabi, cement manufactured in six emirates, and chromite from Fujairah. (See table 1.) All mineral resources were controlled by the individual emirates and only loosely administered by the Federal Government. International petroleum companies were heavily involved in

crude oil and natural gas development and infrastructure projects in Abu Dhabi.

The UAE had reported petroleum reserves of 97.8 billion barrels and natural gas reserves of 5.8 trillion cubic meters. Most of the UAE's hydrocarbon reserves were in Abu Dhabi, the location of 94% of petroleum reserves and 92% of natural gas reserves (Arab Petroleum Research Center, 1999).

Reference Cited

Arab Petroleum Research Center, 1999, United Arab Emirates, in Arab oil & gas directory: Arab Petroleum Research Center, 640 p.

Major Source of Information

Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources
P.O. Box 59, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
Fax: (971) (2) 663-414

¹Deceased.

²Comprises the following seven Emirates: Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujairah, Ras Al-Khaimah, Sharjah, and Umm al-Qaywayn.

TABLE 1
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 2/	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998 e/
Aluminum, primary	246,200 r/	247,400 r/	258,500 r/	381,000 r/	352,000
Cement, hydraulic e/ thousand tons	5,000	5,918 3/	6,000	6,000	6,000
Chromite, gross weight	55,000	37,000	56,000	61,000	60,000
Fertilizer materials:					
Ammonia:					
Gross weight e/	347,500	441,000	405,000	453,121 r/	404,000
N content	286,500	362,700	331,200	372,500	331,300
Urea:					
Gross weight e/	450,000	575,000	490,000	651,331 r/	650,000
N content	230,000	293,600	258,400	303,520 r/	302,900
Gas, natural:					
Gross million cubic meters	34,360	40,860	46,530	48,500	49,000
Dry do.	25,820	31,320	36,250	37,300	37,000
Gypsum e/ thousand tons	95	90	90	90	90
Lime e/ do.	45	50	50	50	50
Natural gas plant liquids e/ thousand 42-gallon barrels	80,000	100,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
Petroleum:					
Crude do.	792,000	800,500	831,470	845,340	880,000
Refinery products:					
Gasoline do.	11,970	12,738	12,446	12,812 r/	12,800
Kerosene do.	10,110	21,243	20,330	24,419 r/	24,000
Distillate fuels do.	21,681	24,345	24,090	27,521 r/	27,000
Residual fuels do.	21,863	12,995	16,717	17,812 r/	17,500
Other do.	10,475	12,665	12,154	26,061 r/	26,000
Total do.	76,099	83,986	85,737	108,625 r/	107,300
Steel e/	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000	70,000
Sulfur, byproduct: e/					
From petroleum refining	24,500	26,000	26,000	27,000 r/	27,000
From natural gas processing	225,500	230,500	233,000	210,000	210,000
Total	250,000	256,500	259,000	237,000 r/	237,000

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through March 17, 2000.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, crude industrial minerals, such as common clays, diabase, gravel, limestone, marble, sand and shale, presumably are produced, but output is not reported, and general information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels.

3/ Reported figure.